

Library

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1 9 5 8

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1 9 5 8

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel. No.:
Kidderminster 2237

LAND OAK HOUSE
KIDDERMINSTER

Chairman :
COUNCILLOR A. PARDOE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
COUNCILLOR H. DOOLITTLE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR C. BLOUNT
" R. E. COLEY
" H. E. HICKTON
" H. HINGLEY, J.P.
" A. E. HOBSON
" W. H. KIMBERLEE, J.P.
" J. PAGE
" J. POWICK
" G. F. PRATT
" E. SMITH
" S. SPENCER
" M. W. STAITE
" J. WARDLE, J.P.
" T. O. WILSON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :
R.W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :
R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk :
Mrs. J. E. JOHNSON

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer : E. LEE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1958.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1958	12,080
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1958	3,920
Rateable Value	£118,532
Sum represented by a penny rate	£474

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

					1958	1957		
Births.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	Live Births :	Legitimate	...	94	83	177	160	
		Illegitimate	...	2	2	4	4	
	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population					14.9	13.3	
	Birth rate for England and Wales					16.4	16.1	
(b)	Still Births :	Legitimate	...	1	3	4	3	
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	0	
Deaths.					Males	Females	Total	Total
(a)	No. registered for District	...	57	43	100	111		
	Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					8.2	8.8	
	Death rate for England and Wales					11.7	11.5	
(b)	Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	0	1
	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births					0	6.2	
(c)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age)	...	...	...	...	5	4
	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :							
	All Infants per 1,000 live births					27.6	24.3	
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					28.8	18.7	
	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					0	25.0	
	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first 4 weeks)					16.5	6.09	
	Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births					22.6	23.1	

Cause of Death.								M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System							—	—
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis							—	—
3.	Syphilitic Diseases							1	—
4.	Diphtheria							—	—
5.	Whooping Cough							—	1
6.	Meningococcal Infections							—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis							—	—
8.	Measles							—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases							1	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach							1	1
11.	" " Lung, Bronchus							3	—
12.	" " Breast							—	1
13.	" " Uterus							—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms							7	5
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia							—	—
16.	Diabetes							1	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System							9	5
18.	Coronary Disease Angina							10	4
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease							2	—
20.	Other Heart Disease							7	11
21.	Other Circulatory Disease							1	2
22.	Influenza							1	—
23.	Pneumonia							3	2
24.	Bronchitis							3	3
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System							—	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum							—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea							—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis							—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate							1	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion							—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations							—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases							3	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents							1	—
34.	All other accidents							1	3
35.	Suicide							1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War							—	—
All causes								57	43

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Mrs. J. E. Johnson as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 90 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by :

- (1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
- (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
- (3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
- (4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
- (5) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 28 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES TO PREMISES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc.	
	Direct to Premises		By Means of Standpipe			
	No. of Premises	Population	No. of Premises	Population	No. of Premises	Population
Wolverley	1059	3,177	162	486	53	159
Upper Arley	130	390	119	357	107	321
Ribbesford	8	24	—	—	18	54
Churchill and Blake- down	378	1,134	—	—	18	54
Rock	482	1,446	158	474	99	297
Broome	49	147	—	—	22	66
Stone	84	252	—	—	41	123
Rushock	26	78	—	—	28	84
Kidderminster Foreign	104	312	207	621	74	222
Chaddeley Corbett ...	401	1,203	45	135	48	144
Totals	2,721	8,163	691	2,073	508	1,524

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 691 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, and camping sites.

It is with great satisfaction that I can report that the Sewerage Scheme for Chaddesley Corbett has been authorised and a tender accepted. Work will commence in January, 1959.

The Wolverley and Cookley Sewerage Scheme has proved to be a great boon to the inhabitants and very few properties remain to be connected.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	Population Served	No. of Houses with		
			Pails	Cess Pits, etc.	Private Installations
Wolverley ...	405	1,417	24	28	49
Cookley ...	569	1981	12	14	21
Upper Arley ...	39	136	78	152	69
Ribbesford ...	—	—	8	12	16
Churchill and Blakedown ...	250	875	18	59	94
Rock ...	72	252	121	379	353
Broome ...	—	—	4	15	54
Stone ...	16	56	28	73	74
Rushock ...	10	35	26	30	14
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	199	84	89
Chaddesley Corbett ...	108	378	115	242	193
Totals ...	1,485	5,181	633	1,088	1026

River Pollution.

Despite the efforts of the Severn River Board there is no obvious improvement in the condition of the River Stour or the canal.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	479
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	501
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	120
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	127
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	87

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	50
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

No case of serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases. Immunisations against Diphtheria.

There has been a small increase in the number of children under five years being immunised and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

A further 122 children under five years and 19 children from 5 to 15 years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 89 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 90 children under one year, 6 children from one to four years, 1 child from five to fifteen years, and 8 persons over fifteen years were given primary vaccination. Twelve children from two to fifteen and 26 persons over fifteen were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1958 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	2	11	2	1	—	17	1	—
Measles ...	2	4	12	53	2	—	1	74	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	4	4	16	—	—	1	25	1	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	3	2	—	12	17	—	5
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	4	3	—	1	8	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
Totals ...	2	9	19	87	9	1	17	144	2	6

Tuberculosis.

Nine cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

The Council's scheme for sewerage the village of Chaddeley Corbett is about to commence and this should bring about a great improvement in the sanitary conditions. One happy result of the completion of this scheme will be the disappearance of the efficient but unpleasant weekly collection of night soil.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1 9 5 8

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Four slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	188	2	34	1,001	519
Number inspected	179	2	26	821	501
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	37	2	Nil	38	21
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.2	100	Nil	4.6	4.1
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.2

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Pneumonia	96 lbs.
Tuberculosis	178 lbs.
Injury	258 lbs.
Total	632 lbs.

Milk.

There has been no trouble arising from pasteurised supplies which are supervised by the County Authorities.

The premises used for the sale of milk have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions	47	—	51
Cafes	11	—	31
Hotels and other licensed premises	33	—	90
Works Canteens	1	—	5
Dairies	21	—	67
Mobile Canteens	1	—	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	7
Ice Cream Retailers	30	30	39

The general standard of cleanliness at food premises continues to be very high. Again the improvement is most obvious in licensed premises.

Supervision of one-day fixtures, such as race meetings, etc., has been maintained and the co-operation of the promoters has been very satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force	23
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BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1958	4
Inspections	12

Contraventions Remedied :

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING.**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one 3-ton Bedford Eagle lorry with a crew of three, and a Contractor's lorry manned by two men.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Bedford deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	...	...	...	...	1,703 loads
Tipped at Trimpley	...	...	...	...	271 „
Tipped at Rock	...	...	...	...	287 „
					<hr/> 2,261 loads <hr/>

All these tips are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. and other insecticides and little nuisance has arisen from flies, crickets, etc.

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done. The tenants of the houses concerned are to be congratulated on the way in which they cope with the situation and there has been no cause to draw their attention to any matter during the year.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Rural District is very well supplied with water from several sources. Bacteriological samples are regularly taken and when necessary chemical analyses are made. Details of samples taken are as follows :

					Fit	Unfit	Total
<i>Public Supplies Mains</i>							
Cookley Borehole	...	...	...	...	8	—	8
Elan Valley	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
Stourbridge Water Board	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
South Staffs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	8	—	8
East Worcs. Water Board	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Kidderminster Corporation	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
					28	—	28
<i>Private Supplies</i>							
Wells and Springs	...	...	...	...	8	9	17

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1958.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	347
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	67
Fried Fish Premises ...	...	...	...	...	8
Infectious Disease ...	...	...	...	...	12
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	267
Premises where animals are kept ...	...	...	...	...	90
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	8
Water Courses ...	...	...	...	...	67
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	170
Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	4
Provision of Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	91
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	907
Refuse Collection ...	...	...	...	...	1,761

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants ...	...	...	...	11
Verminous houses dealt with ...	...	...	...	2

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants ...	...	...	10
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	...	...	211

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction ...	...	...	161
Defective drains repaired ...	...	...	79
New drains provided ...	...	...	84
Sinks provided ...	...	...	49
Cesspools abolished ...	...	...	21

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected ...	...	...	21
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed ...	...	...	29
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired ...	...	...	68
Water Closets repaired ...	...	...	60
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.) ...	...	...	59
Conversions :			
Conversions of privies to W.C's ...	...	...	4
Conversions of pail closets to W.C's	28

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	18
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Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	102
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants	36
Ashpits abolished	1

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	32
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RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**Infestation Order, 1943.**

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses	...	287
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises	...	6
Number of other infestations dealt with	...	14
Number of complaints received	...	93

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

The Council having always had an excellent housing record, it is disappointing to report that only two houses were completed during the year.

This has been due to the financial situation, but it is to be hoped that progress can be resumed in the near future.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Public Health Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :

Private ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
For Re-sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total								60
Total fees received								£34 17s. 6d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Public Health Inspector.

